

10: d'Orleans--277 [2] T-3
116, 124, 177, 192, 563, 802

(1891-92) 1894

Laos
Ethnic subgroups

"I am trying to make a lexicon of their [LSS: Kha boatmen, in the service of a Laotian] language; they answer us, but sometimes we have a great deal of trouble in hearing what they say, and particularly in separating the affixes or suffixes, with which they can surround the same word. I notice the absence of special names for certain classes of things; they have no word for bread and the names of the numerals, except the four first, are borrowed from the Laotians; lastly mother is called ma, the word in general use amongst nearly all the peoples of the world, perhaps because it is the first sound that a newborn infant instinctively produces, when it requires food."

10; d'Orleans--277 [3] T-3
116, 202, 212, 533, 563, 802

(1891-92) 1894

Laos
Ethnic subgroups

"From their [LSS: Kha boatmen, in the service of a Laotian] own account, they have no special songs, but they use the Laotian music.

Writing is unknown to them; but they keep their accounts, or send their messages by means of small pieces of bamboo, marked with notches which are made at closer or longer intervals according to the signification that has been arranged. This is like our bakers' sticks. (1)

1. M. Harmand has found amongst the peoples of the south of Indo-China the same method of correspondence that Father Crabouillet discovered amongst the Lolos of Setchoun. (Cf. 'Note on the Writing of the Indo-Chinese Khas,' by M. P. Lefèvre-Pontalis, L'Anthropologie, Mars-Avril, 1892.) "

231 highly developed canine teeth.

There is another variety, not so tall and lighter in color, which is widespread mainly among the Laotian population on the banks of the Mekong and its tributaries.

[407] Cammon exports pigs to Annam. In 1899, 6,038 of these animals representing a value of 30,565 francs were exported from this province.

Chickens. The Meos have a variety of chicken which is much taller than the chickens of the plains. They make a current practice of caponizing, and this procedure produces chickens which are highly esteemed by Europeans for the firmness of their meat and the delicacy of their taste.

Goats. The raising of goats does not call for any particular remarks. It is done naturally without any particular care, and is localized in northern Laos. In southern Laos goats are found only in the wild state. Europeans have brought in a few domesticated goats for their own use.

231 185 Sheep. It would be interesting to try sheep raising on the high plateaus of northern Laos. It has been denied that any undertaking of this nature could succeed, but it would seem that no serious attempt has as yet been made. It would first be necessary to choose a breed capable of multiplying on ground similar to that of northern Laos with respect to altitude, climate, forage, hygrometric conditions, constitution of the soil, etc. Since sheep do not withstand humidity well, it would also be necessary to move the flocks to high, dry points during the months of the rainy season. Afterwards, at the beginning of the dry season, they could be returned to pasturages in the plains.

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[409] [Illustration at top of page]

CHAPTER VIII

1. NUMBERS, WEIGHTS, MEASURES AND COINAGE

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Since numbers, weights, measures and coinage serve as a basis for all transactions and all commercial evaluations, we shall here

805 give a summary of the System in force in Laos.

802 Numbers. Laotian numeration is decimal, and goes up into
● tens of billions (1).

(1) Like all primitive peoples, the Laotians have no conception of such high numbers. Scholars, mandarins and bonzes are the only ones who know these expressions.

[12/2] [410] Numbers are written, just as we do, in groups of three figures.

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1st example	2nd example	3rd example
1 Nung	1 Nung	11 Sib-Et
2 Song	10 Sib	12 etc. Sib-Sung, etc.
3 Sam	100 Roi (Hoi or Loi)	20 etc. Sao (or Di-Sib)
4 Si	1,000 Phane	30 etc. Sam-Sib
5 Ha	10,000 Mune	40 etc. Si-Sib, etc.
6 Hok	100,000 Sen	200 etc. Song-Roi (Hoi or Loi)
7 Tiet	1,000,000 Lane	2,000 etc. Song-Phane, etc.
8 Pet	10,000,000 Kot	50,000 etc. Ha-Mune, etc.
9 Kao	100,000,000 Tu or Pa-Kot	600,000 etc. Hok-Sen, etc.
0 Sound (no value to left of a figure.)	1,000,000,000 Ha-Song-Khai	2,000,000 etc. Song-Lane, etc.
	10,000,000,000 Sib-Khai	200,000,000 etc. Song-Tu, etc.
		3,000,000,000 etc. Sam-Ha-Song-Khai, etc.
		50,000,000,000 etc. Ha-Sib-Khai, etc.

149: Reimach-301 G-3 (no date) 1901 AML Indochina
Laotians AMS